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Yvette M Wong 07/28/2004 05:52:53 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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STATE FOR IO/SHA, DRL/MLA, L/HRR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE 11TH MEETING OF
MANDATE HOLDERS TO SECRETARY POWELL

1. Mission received correspondence from Mr. Theo van Boven,
Chairperson of the Eleventh Meeting of Mandate Holders,
addressed to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

2. Begin text of letter.

30 June 2004

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the 11th meeting of Special
Rapporteurs/Representatives, experts and chairperson of
working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on
Human Rights and on the advisory services program, I have the
honour to draw your attention to the contents of the attached
Statement which was issued by the participants of the meeting
which took place in Geneva from 21 to 25 June 2004.

The meeting of Special Procedures mandate-holders is convened
annually since 1994 as a follow-up to the World Conference on
Human Rights, pursuant to a recommendation of the Vienna
Declaration and Programme of Action which underlined the
importance of preserving and strengthening the system of
special procedures and specified that these procedures should
be enabled to harmonize and rationalize their work through
periodic meetings.

Yours sincerely

Theo van Boven
Chairperson of the Eleventh Meeting of Mandate Holders.

H.E. Mr. Colin Powell
Secretary of State
Washington DC.
United States of America

End of letter.

3. Begin text of declaration.

Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the
context of anti-terrorism measures

Joint Statement by participants at the eleventh Annual
Meeting of the Special Rapporteurs/representatives,
independent experts and chairpersons of the working groups of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 10 DEC 2004 200303827

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the Special Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme.

"The Special Rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of the working groups of the Special Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme, meeting in eleventh annual session in Geneva from 21 to 25 June 2004, reiterate the concerns expressed in their statement of June 2003 regarding the serious incidence that certain measures taken in the name of the fight against terrorism may have on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

They once again strongly voice their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. At the same time, they reaffirm their individual and collective determination to monitor, each within the framework of his or her mandate, those policies, legislation, measures and practices developed by States in the name of the fight against terrorism, with a view to ascertaining that they are consistent with international human rights standards.

Bearing in mind a number of recent developments that have seriously alarmed the international community with regard to the status, conditions of detention and treatment of prisoners in specific places of detention, they express their unanimous desire that the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Mr. Leandro Despouy, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the working Group Arbitrary Detention, Mrs. Leila Zerrougui, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Mr. Paul Hunt and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Mr. Theo van Boven, visit, together and at the earliest possible date, those persons arrested, detained or tried on grounds of alleged terrorism or other violations, in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Guantanamo Bay military base and elsewhere, with a view to ascertain, each within the confines of their mandate, that international human rights standards are properly upheld with regard to these persons, and also to make themselves available to the authorities concerned for consultation and advice on all issues within their areas of competence. They further express the wish that they present the outcome of their approaches and visits to the 61st session of the Human

Rights Commission."

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